

VASIP Steering Committee Meeting Notes

June 21, 2007

Attending In Person: Mark Blackwell, Malcolm King, Alan Cale, Janet Davis, Arnold Woodruff, Mellie Randall, Sterling Deal, Rhonda Thissen, Will Ferriss, Tammy Farmer, Janet Lung, Jim Evans, Anne Benner, Bonnie Neighbour, Carolann Pacer-Ramsey, Will Williams, Jason Lowe, Laurie Rokutani, Sharon Ekleberry, Ellen Harrison

Participating By Phone: Marc Goldberg, Stephanie Savage, Caroline Schleifer

The meeting was called to order at 10:16 a.m.

Update on Recent Activities

Minkoff and Cline Consultations: Sterling updated the group on Ken Minkoff's and Chris Cline's visit to Virginia on June 4 and 5. On June 4, members of the VASIP team and Drs. Minkoff and Cline met with upper management of the Department and the VACSB to build consensus about system integration for co-occurring disorders treatment. On Tuesday, June 5, Dr. Minkoff provided an introductory training on co-occurring disorders and the CCISC model and Dr. Cline offered advanced clinical consultation to staff of the Region V CSBs. More than 200 staff attended those two events.

During their visit, Drs. Minkoff and Cline and the VASIP team also met with Jerry Deans, Assistant Commissioner for Facilities; Dr. Jim Evans, state Medical Director; and Cynthia McClaskey, director of Southwest Virginia Mental Health Center, to discuss an initiative through which Drs. Minkoff and Cline will provide consultation to staff and consumers at the state hospitals/institutes around the development of recovery-oriented care and co-occurring disorders services. We hope this consultation will assist the facilities to respond to deficiencies in recovery-oriented care that were identified by the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) during a recent review. Rhonda Thissen asked Caroline Scheifer of Southern Virginia Mental Health Institute and Alan Cale of Western State Hospital, the Committee's two facility reps participating in the meeting, to report on their experiences with the OIG's site visit and review of recovery-oriented services. Mark Blackwell wondered about how the IG is defining recovery, and how it is possible to quantify a "recovery" score.

Double Trouble in Recovery: Sterling also shared that the team is currently in talks with Howard Vogel, the national director of Double Trouble in Recovery, Inc., about developing a contract with him to assist the state in promoting Double Trouble groups in Virginia. Mr. Vogel has contracted with two other COSIG grantees, the State of Oklahoma and the District of Columbia, to train consumers and staff to develop groups, and both of these grantees were pleased with his services. Caroline Schleifer indicated that she also had contact with Mr. Vogel and reported that his main emphasis is on peer support training to run groups within facilities. This fits with the VASIP team's vision for his involvement in Virginia as well. Mr. Vogel will make two presentations on Double Trouble at the System Transformation conference on September 11.

Workforce Survey: Jason Lowe updated the Committee on workforce survey efforts, reviewing the currently proposed rollout plan for the survey. This plan calls for a multistage rollout, including both online and hard copy versions of the survey. Executive directors and clinical supervisors will be involved in helping to publicize the survey within the CSBs. After a certain amount of time, follow-ups will be made, and a detailed plan for hard copy distribution will be developed. Will Williams pointed out that there needs to be a collateral effort on all parts in an attempt to try and drill down the survey as far as possible in the CSBs so that our response rate can be as high as possible. Mark asked if the survey will capture workforce development needs, and Marc Goldberg indicated that it will not, but that the Coalition of Substance Abuse Organizations (CSAO) is doing parallel work to address those needs. Will Ferriss pointed out that the Annapolis Coalition has just released their latest report on Workforce Development, and that might be informative for committee members. Mark asked if the survey included more information about recovery, because if that is the future track of departmental efforts, it would be helpful to know if current staff have a grasp on this concept. More information on the Annapolis Coalition report can be found at www.annapoliscoalition.org.

Conversation then turned toward a more extensive dialogue about recovery. Mark proposed that maybe the ATTC could provide a facilitator that could help us hold a conversation about creating a definition for “co-occurring recovery.” Sharon Ekleberry offered to share a document that includes multiple definitions of “recovery” from a variety of services, and also helps illustrate what a recovery-oriented system of care looks like. Caroline proposed that a dinner meeting take place the week of VSIAS, and most agreed. Rhonda Thissen will follow up with an email that will help decide about when is the best time to meet.

Mellie Randall updated the Committee on the Transformation Conference, which is scheduled for September 10-12 at the Holiday Inn Koger Center South in Richmond. It focuses on effecting system transformation change. Dean Fixen will provide the keynote address. David Mee-Lee will also be giving presentations. Other presentations will deal with better engagement with families, and there will be regional breakout sessions to allow regions to plan for regional transformation efforts. Information on the conference and registration forms can be found at the conference’s Web site at <http://www.midattc.org/transformation/>. Janet Davis also mentioned the Children’s System of Care Conference, which is scheduled for September 16-18 at the Hotel Roanoke; the Web site address for that conference is <http://www.cpe.vt.edu/scep/>.

Minutes from previous meeting were reviewed, and a lunch break was taken.

Subcommittee Reports

- Membership: Will Williams reported on a recent conference call/meeting of the Membership Subcommittee. The call focused on who should be on the Committee, and what possible statutory authority the Committee may have. Anne Benner indicated she thought that there should be a consumer from each region at the meetings. Rhonda described her various efforts to get consumers involved from all regions in the state. Will W. reiterated his belief that the VACSB needs to be brought into this process and the work of VASIP full-fold. To that end, Will is proposing that this committee become the Co-Occurring Disorders Council of the VACSB, much like the SA and MH councils that

already exist. Will W. proposes that if a separate council is not allowed, a standing joint committee of the two councils may be appropriate as a substitute. The possibility of including private providers, and/or VADAP and VADAC, was discussed as well. Consensus of the group is that a joint standing committee would probably be a better option.

- Professional Training and System Development (PTSD) Work Group: Laurie Rokutani provided a report from the PTSD Work Group, whose main goal is to develop a co-occurring disorders training plan. Currently the Work Group is revising and reviewing the plan, and also working on communication and networking both within the Department and around the state.

The Committee's next meeting is scheduled for August 16, at 10 a.m. at the offices of the Virginia Association of Community Services Boards. The main points of discussion will be the finalized Substance Abuse Services Council "white paper" on recovery, and the facilitated discussion on a definition of "co-occurring recovery." The co-occurring recovery session will be facilitated by Dr. Paula Horvatich, director of the Mid-Atlantic Addiction Technology Transfer Center.

The meeting adjourned at 1:05 p.m.

Recorded by Jason Lowe